

THE JOY OF VOLUNTEERING

Getting the Most Out of Volunteering

TRANSCRIPT

[TEXT: Young African Leaders Initiative
YALI Voices]

Hello, my name is Celestina Obiekea and this is the Joy of Volunteering.

[TEXT: The Joy of Volunteering, Getting the Most Out of Volunteering]

It's important for anyone who volunteers to know that they are making a contribution. Knowing that you're making a positive difference for your community or an individual will give you a sense of achievement and is one of the things that will bring you back when next the need arises.

Thus, it's important for you to know how to get the most rewarding experience from your volunteer work. Here are a few things that will help you do that.

Before you volunteer, open your mind to what's going on in your community. Learn what the issues facing individuals and institutions are. See things from new perspectives and talk to people in the community or institutions where you wish to volunteer.

Then ask yourself, why am I interested in volunteering in the first place? What is it about this particular volunteering experience about and what does success look like?

What skills do I possess and how can these be applied to this volunteer experience? What new skills do I hope to get from this volunteer experience? How can what I know now be of benefit in this volunteering experience?

Answer these questions honestly. Remember that the work you do can have a profound effect on others and you should be sure you are doing it for the right reasons.

Take the time out to write down a 6 to 10 line summary of your objective for wanting a particular volunteer experience and the goals you aim to achieve - for yourself and for others.

[TEXT: Learn more about what it means to serve others through volunteering at yali.state.gov/serves]

[TEXT: Written and Produced by Mimshach Obioha, 2016 Mandela Washington Fellow, Celestina Obiekea, YALI Regional Leadership Center West-Africa-Accra Participant]

